(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the bottlebeck in those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Indira Sagar Project

1195. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some prominent environmental scientists have advised the Government to stop the implementation of the Indira Sagar Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Voluntary organisations, including environmentalists, have been protesting against the construction of the Narmada Sagar Project, minly on grounds of rehabilitation and environmental issues. The State Government, which is implementing the project has drawn up a detailed programme for environmental safeguard measures and for rehabilitation of the project affected people. Narmada Control Authority has been directed to monitor the progress in respect of these measures.

Mines and Metal Plants in Maharashtra

1196. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mines in Maharashtra and the number of metal plants already set up there;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to expand these plants; and

(c) if so, the time bound programme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) As per information received from Govt. of Maharashtra, there are 280 mining leases for major minerals in the State of Maharashtra. The details are given in the Statement attached.

A total of 10 metal plants have been set up in the State of Maharashtra, out of these, 6 plants are for production of ferro-alloys and 1 is a sintaring plant for producing manganese sinters from fines.

(b) and (c). Expansion of three ferro-manganess units has already been taken up in the recent past. Proposals are being worked out for expansion of the ferro-manganese plant of Maharashtra Electro-smelt Limited during 9th Plan. There is no plan at present for expansion of the manganese sintering plant.

List of mining leases for major minerals existing in the State of Maharashtra

Sl. No.	*Mineral*	*No. of Mining Leases*
1.	Manganese ore	38
2.	Coal	34
3.	Iron ore	38
4.	Limestone	42
5.	Bauxite	8